

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 WELLIN 02009 200223Z  
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 ICAE-00 NSCE-00  
CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02  
( ISO ) W

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FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON  
TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
USICA WASHDC  
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5398  
CINCPAC HONOLULU

UNCLAS WELLINGTON 02009

FOR: IPB IOR IPS, CINCPAC FOR USICA ADVISOR

EO 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT CARTER MEDIA REACTION

1. FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM AN EDITORIAL IN THE NEW ZEALAND "HERALD" OF APRIL 19 ENTITLED, "CARTER SEEKS THE ANSWERS."

2. "PRESIDENT CARTER, WHO HAS BEEN IN OFFICE FOR 15 MONTHS, DOES NOT SEEM TO HAVE STAMPED HIS ADMINISTRATION WITH ANY VERY POSITIVE CHARACTER. PUBLIC APPROVAL IN THE UNITED STATES OF THE WAY HE DOES HIS JOB HAS DECLINED TO 46 PER CENT FROM THE HIGH POINT OF 76 PER CENT IN APRIL LAST YEAR. HE AND HIS TOP AIDES HAVE MET TO SEEK WAYS D ATTRACTING PUBLIC CONFIDENCE AND IMPROVING THE EFFECT-IVENESS OF THE WHITE HOUSE.

3. "MR CARTER IS A MAN OF GENUINE MORAL PRINCIPLES, BUT MORALISING CANNOT ALWAYS TRANSLATE INTO THE PRAGMATISM REQUIRED IN RUNNING A NATION OR IN NEGOTIATING WITH OTHER COUNTRIES.

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4. "INDEED, MR CARTER ANGERED THE RUSSIANS AND EN-DANGERED HIS DEALINGS WITH THEM BY PURSUING SUCH RATHER SIMPLISTIC IDEAS. IN HIS EARLY INNOCENCE HE MADE SOME HIGHLY CRITICAL, IF WELL-DESERVED, REMARKS ABOUT PRESIDENT AMIN AND THEREBY IMPERILLED THE LIVES OF AMERICANS IN UGANDA.

5. "AT HOME, MR CARTER'S BASIC PROBLEM IS THAT HE CAM-PAIGNED AS A MAN FREE OF THE TAINTS OF CONGRESSIONAL POLITICS, AND HE HAS TO A CONSIDERABLE DEGREE CONTINUED HIS ALOOFNESS. BUT LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMMES REQUIRE A GOOD WORKING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE WHITE HOUSE AND CONGRESS AND THE PRESIDENT IS HAVING A HARD TIME WITH HIS ENERGY PROPOSALS - WHICH HE PRESENTED AS CRUCIAL - AND WITH VARIOUS OTHER ISSUES.

6. "MR CARTER FACES NUMEROUS TROUBLES, WHICH HE MAY YET BE ABLE TO CONQUER. OTHER PRESIDENTS HAVE SUFFERED BAD TIMES AND HAVE SURMOUNTED THEM. IF MR CARTER CAN LEARN FROM EXPERIENCE, HE MAY WELL DO THE SAME, BUT HE NEEDS TO SHOW MASTERY RATHER THAN DRIFT. PERHAPS THE CAMP DAVID SESSION WITH HIS AIDES WILL HELP HIM."  
ANDERSON

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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